

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/PV.372
29 February 1968
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THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

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COLLECTION

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 29 February 1968, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. H. KHALLAF

(United Arab Republic)

GE.68-3701
68-07122

Brazil: Mr. J.A. de ARAUJO CASTRO
Mr. C.A. de SOUZA e SILVA
Mr. A. da COSTA GUIMARAES
Mr. O. MUNIZ OLIVA

Bulgaria: Mr. K. CHRISTOV
Mr. B. KONSTANTINOV

Burma: U KYAW MIN

Canada: Mr. E.L.M. BURNS
Mr. J.R. MORDEN
Mr. A. BERNIER

Czechoslovakia: Mr. T. LAHODA
Mr. V. VAJNAR

Ethiopia: Mr. A. ZELLEKE

India: Mr. M.A. HUSAIN
Mr. N. KRISHNAN
Mr. K.P. JAIN

Italy: Mr. R. CARACCILOLO
Mr. G.P. TOZZOLI
Mr. E. FRANCO
Mr. F. SORO

Mexico: Mr. A. GOMEZ ROBLEDO
Mr. A. CARRANCO AVILA

Nigeria: Alhaji SULE KOLO
Mr. B.O. TONWE

Poland:

Mr. M. BLUSZTAJN
Mr. E. STANIEWSKI

Romania:

Mr. N. ECOBESCO
Mr. C. GEORGESCO
Mr. A. COROIANU

Sweden:

Mr. L. ECKERBERG
Mr. R. BOMAN

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. A.A. ROSCHIN
Mr. V.V. SHUSTOV
Mr. V.B. TOULINOV

United Arab Republic:

Mr. H. KHALLAF
Mr. O. SIRRY
Mr. M. SHAKER

United Kingdom:

The Rt. Hon. F. MULLEY
Mr. I.F. PORTER
Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE
Mr. D. MOSS

United States of America:

Mr. W.C. FOSTER
Mr. S. DePALMA
Mr. L.D. WEILER
Mr. C.G. BREAM

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. D. PROTITCH

1. The CHAIRMAN (United Arab Republic): I declare open the 372nd plenary meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. MULLEY (United Kingdom): I am glad to be back in Geneva in this Committee. I have followed the proceedings of the Committee and noted the extra productivity as a result of the third sitting each week, and I have been very pleased to see that considerable progress has been made. Needless to say, we still have much work to do, and I reaffirm the desire of my Government that we should maintain the time-table laid down by the General Assembly and try to complete our work on the treaty so that it can be opened for signature at the earliest possible date.

3. However, it is not my purpose this morning to add to the substantive debate on the issues of the non-proliferation treaty, for I have already made my Government's position clear in January (ENDC/PV.358), and my Ambassador, Mr. Porter, has given our view on a number of the amendments put before the Committee since then. This morning I wish only to make a short announcement.

4. As many of my colleagues will already be aware, the United Kingdom Government announced on 19 April 1967 that it had decided to join the United States Government in an important new venture: the holding of a joint arms control verification exercise in southern England in 1968. The exercise, originally known as "Cloud Gap 15", has now been renamed "Exercise First Look". It will start at the end of June and continue until the end of September. The purpose of the exercise is to test in the field possible means of verifying compliance with a hypothetical international agreement limiting conventional land and air forces. The exercise is not directly related to any current arms control or disarmament proposal and will not be concerned with nuclear weapons.

5. We are hoping that Exercise First Look will enable us to acquire valuable practical experience of verification problems and techniques and so to improve our understanding of these matters. As previous discussions in this Committee have shown, the provision of effective and acceptable verification arrangements is one of the keys to progress in the arms control and disarmament field. Exercise First Look should therefore contribute to progress in our negotiations.

6. We recognize that Exercise First Look will be of wide interest; and we believe that the members of this Committee in particular will probably wish to know something about it. Therefore I am very happy to invite, on behalf of the British Government, all the Governments represented on this Committee to send observers on a visit to

(Mr. Mulley, United Kingdom)

the exercise. Formal invitations, with details of the arrangements proposed, will be extended by the Foreign Office in London at a later date, when planning is more advanced.

7. At present we think a visit would be most useful and informative if it were to take place in August, by which time the exercise would be well under way. Our intention is to invite each member of this Committee to send two observers, who could be either civilian or military, for a short visit of about one-and-a-half to two days, to the exercise area. During the visit a detailed briefing about the exercise will be provided, and there will be opportunities to watch inspecting teams at their work in the field. The final arrangements are still being studied; but we expect that the invitation will most probably be for the visit to take place in the week beginning 12 August.

8. I very much hope that all the Governments participating in this Committee will be able to accept the invitation which my Government will be making to them and that they will find the experience profitable and worth while. I recognize that the members of the Committee will need more detailed information, and we shall do our best to supply that in due course. However, I thought it would be convenient to give them this preliminary notice at this stage.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its 372nd plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador H. Khallaf, representative of the United Arab Republic.

"A statement was made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 5 March 1968, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

